the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN

MARVEL

1

LGY#802

SPENCER
OTTLEY
RATHBURN
MARTIN

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R.OTTLEY

THERE'S A REASON WE TELL OURSELVES STORIES.

THE DETAILS WE FOCUS ON, THE ONES WE LEAVE OUT, THE ORDER WE PUT THINGS IN--IT ALL MATTERS. SOMETIMES ***A LOT.***

BECAUSE WE NEED THOSE STORIES TO GET THROUGH THE DAY. THROUGH THE HARD TIMES.

THIS IS ***MY*** STORY--

THE ONE I PLAY OVER AND OVER IN MY HEAD, WHILE EVERYTHING GOES WRONG.

IT'S THE ONE WHERE I'M ON TOP OF THE WORLD.

WHERE I FEEL SAFEST...

WHERE I'M LOVED...

WHERE I'M NOT ALONE...

BECAUSE WE'RE *TOGETHER.*

SOMETIMES I CAN EVEN SEE IT IN MY *SLEEP*--

5:40

--ASSUMING I ACTUALLY *GET* ANY.

BOOM!

TROOPS COMING IN OVER THE HILL! GET COVER!

SEE, I GUESS I'M NOT ALONE THESE DAYS EITHER--

--BUT GOD, DO I HATE HAVING ROOMMATES.

WATCH YOUR SIX, JIN SOO! WATCH YOUR SIIIIIIX!

OKAY, THEY'RE NOT ALL BAD. LIKE *RANDY ROBERTSON* HERE, ONE OF MY BEST FRIENDS, AND THE SON OF MY BOSS AT THE *DAILY BUGLE*. HE'S COOL.

MORNING, PETE. WANT SOME--UM, CEREAL CRUMBS?

AW, THAT'S *MY* BAD, FELLAS--

BUT *THIS* GUY, RIGHT?

THIS GUY IS THE *WORST*.

NEEDED SOME RATIONS AHEAD OF THE BIG DOOMSTADT OFFENSIVE. I STILL GOT SOME CHEETOS IF YOU--NO, WAIT, HOLD ON--

ONE CHEETO. BUT IT'S ALL YOURS.

TO SHARE.

THAT'S IT--

PETE, COME ON, IT'S NOT WORTH IT...

IT'S 5 A.M., RANDY--IT'S FIVE A.M. AND HE'S PLAYING *CALL OF DUTY: LATVERIA!*

IT'S WHEN THE KOREAN PLAYERS LOG ON! THOSE GUYS DON'T MESS AROUND. YOU GOTTA BEAT THE BEST TO BE THE BEST!

AND YOU NEEDED ALL THESE SPEAKERS ON?! YOU COULDN'T JUST LISTEN ON THE HEADSET?!

ARE YOU KIDDING? THE IMMERSIVE SURROUND IS HALF THE EXPERIENCE! WHY DO YOU THINK I STOLE--I MEAN, PURCHASED--ALL THIS HOME THEATER STUFF IN THE FIRST PLACE?

BECAUSE, YEAH, IN ADDITION TO BEING LOUD AND MESSY, THIS ROOMMATE--

--IS ALSO A *SUPER VILLAIN.*

MORE SPECIFICALLY, *BOOMERANG.*

WASHED-UP EX-BASEBALL PLAYER TURNED MERCENARY, THIEF, AND GUY WHO NEVER REFILLS THE BRITA COOLER EVEN THOUGH YOU PUT A POST-IT NOTE ON IT SAYING "PLEASE REFILL IT WHEN IT GETS TO THIS LINE."

I RAN INTO HIM ON THE JOB. HE'D JUST ROBBED A MUSEUM, AND WHATEVER HE GOT FROM IT, *THE KINGPIN* WAS MIGHTY INTERESTED.

SO INTERESTED I HAD TO LET HIM GO--WHICH IS PRETTY OFF-BRAND FOR ME, BUT I GOT THE SENSE FISK WAS THE REAL DANGER THERE.

BUT THEN BOOMERANG--REAL NAME *FRED MYERS*--SHOWED UP TO SUBLET THE THIRD BEDROOM HERE AT MY AND RANDY'S PLACE! GIVING ME A CHANCE TO FIND OUT WHAT'S REALLY GOING ON WITH HIS NEFARIOUS SCHEME--

--ALSO, WE COULD REALLY USE THE HELP WITH THE RENT.

LISTEN, MAN, I GET IT--FRED'S A LITTLE ROUGH AROUND THE EDGES, BUT HE'S NOT SO BAD. WE WENT OUT THE OTHER NIGHT, ACTUALLY HAD A GOOD TIME. HE'S GOT SOME CRAZY STORIES--

AND THEN SPIDER-MAN JUST COMPLETELY FACEPLANTS, AND I SAID, "DOES THIS MEAN I GOTTA SPLIT MY CUT WITH YOU?" TRUTH IS, I THINK AFTER THAT HE REALLY RESPECTED ME-- ADMIRED ME, EVEN--

THAT'S NOT HOW SPIDER-MAN TELLS THAT STORY.

YOU JUST GOTTA GIVE HIM A CHANCE. BESIDES--

--I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE COMPLAINING ABOUT. DIDN'T YOU NEED TO BE UP ALREADY FOR THAT EARLY MORNING PRESS CONFERENCE AT E.S.U.?

HUH? NO, THAT'S TUESDAY.

UH, PETE-- WHAT DAY DO YOU THINK IT IS?

...*OTHER* TUESDAY?

WHICH IS ***RIDICULOUS***, I KNOW. BUT TO BE FAIR--

--I DO HAVE A LOT ON MY MIND RIGHT NOW.

UNITED FRONT, PEOPLE--FOCUS ON DIRECTING THEIR FIRE AWAY FROM THE CIVILIANS! AND HOLD THE LINE--WE NEED TO KEEP THESE THINGS CONTAINED TO MIDTOWN!

CONTAINED?! THERE'S *MILLIONS* OF THESE BUGS.

ACTUALLY, THERE ARE **14,984** ALIEN BIOMASSES THAT HAVE EMERGED FROM THE PORTAL--

DON'T MATTER ***HOW MANY*** THERE ARE--WE'RE FIGHTIN' BLIND 'TIL WE KNOW ***WHAT*** THEY ARE. AND WHAT MAKES 'EM HURT.

*WE'RE ON IT, LOGAN--BROUGHT IN AN OUTSIDE CONSULTANT. **LIGHT YEARS-AWAY** OUTSIDE.*

AND ON THAT NOTE--QUILL, ANY LEADS?

IS IT THE ***DERAXI?*** YOU KNOW, THE HORDE THAT RAVAGED APOKITA IV?

NAH, THEY GOT THE LITTLE UPSIDE-DOWN HORNS, REMEMBER? PLUS, THOSE GUYS RETIRED. GOT A LITTLE TIMESHARE ON THE INFINITY SANDS.

NO KIDDING? GOOD FOR THEM. NICE UP THERE.

I AM GROOT.

THAT'S SO SPECIESIST.

SORRY, EVERYBODY. WE'RE COMING UP BLANK HERE--DID YOU TRY GOOGLING THEM?

DID WE TRY--WILL SOMEBODY KILL THAT FEED? I CAN BARELY HEAR ANYTHING OVER THE KISS B-SIDES, ANYWAY.

WE'RE GONNA NEED MORE REINFORCEMENTS--

REINFORCEMENTS? WELL THEN, GOOD NEWS, PEOPLE--

--IT'S YOUR *FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN!*

PLEASE DON'T BE THROWN OFF BY THE KICKING-- STILL FRIENDLY!

AND DON'T WORRY ABOUT THE NEIGHBORHOOD STUFF EITHER, I'M LICENSED AND QUALIFIED TO SPIDER PRETTY MUCH ANYWHERE.

OUTSIDE CANADA. CANADA WENT BADLY.

UGH... YOU.

WHICH IS A DISAPPOINTING RESPONSE. I MEAN, COME ON--

--THAT LINE *KILLED* WHEN I WORKSHOPPED IT!

BUT, HEY, IF IT'S NOT EXACTLY THE HEROIC WELCOME I WAS HOPING FOR--

--IT'S HARD TO BLAME THEM.

A FEW WEEKS AGO...

DISPATCH TO ALL UNITS-- ARMED ROBBERY IN PROGRESS AT STERN SAVINGS & TRUST--

HEY, EVERYBODY--

--IT'S YOUR *FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD SPIDER-MAN!* DON'T BE ALARMED BY MY SHATTERING THIS GLASS, STILL FRIENDLY--

--AND DON'T SWEAT THE "NEIGHBORHOOD" PART. TURNS OUT I'M QUALIFIED TO--

IT'S HIM! GET READY--

GET THE VAULT DOOR OPEN, QUICK!

USA

SEE? KILLED.

TURNS OUT I DO HAVE FANS AFTER ALL--

APOLOGIES FOR THE RUSE, SPIDER-MAN.

--THEY JUST HAPPEN TO BE *AWFUL.*

BUT I KNOW YOU'RE MUCH TOO *HUMBLE* TO COME HERE FOR THIS ANY OTHER WAY.

CONGRATULATIONS SPIDER-MAN

WILSON FISK, KINGPIN OF CRIME-- AND NOW THE DULY ELECTED MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY! HOW THE HECK DID *THAT* HAPPEN, RIGHT?

SOME PEOPLE SAY HE USED AN INFINITY STONE TO RESHAPE REALITY OR GOT MASTERMIND TO BRAINWASH EVERYBODY, BUT I BLAME ALL THE SUBWAY DELAYS.

DOCTOR DOOM IS PROBABLY RIGHT ABOUT DEMOCRACY BEING DUMB.

SAVE IT, FISK! I KNOW A *SETUP* WHEN I SEE ONE--YOU EVEN GOT YOUR CAMERA CREW READY. WELL, I'VE NEVER SEEN THAT VAULT BEFORE IN MY LIFE!

YOU *MISUNDERSTAND,* WALL-CRAWLER--

--I SIMPLY WANTED TO PRESENT YOU WITH THIS--THE *KEY TO THE CITY.*

IT'S THE LEAST I CAN DO TO SHOW MY APPRECIATION FOR ALL YOUR HEROIC EFFORTS TO PROTECT MY CONSTITUENTS.

WOW, THE KEY TO THE CITY... THINK OF THE DOORS IT WOULD OPEN FOR ME...

...SPIDER-MAN, HONORED AT LINCOLN CENTER. SPIDER-MAN, STATUE IN PROSPECT PARK. SPIDER-MAN, GETS TO SKIP THE LINE AT KATZ'S...

HEY, WAIT A SECOND--

--I'VE SEEN *IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE!* YOU EVEN KINDA LOOK LIKE ***MR. POTTER!*** YOU CAN'T BUY ME, MISTER!

I'LL STICK WITH MY ***REGULAR-SIZED*** KEYS, THANK YOU--THAT WOULD ACTUALLY BE INCREDIBLY AWKWARD TO CARRY AROUND!

I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND, MR. MAYOR. YOU'VE ALL BUT DECLARED WAR ON EVERY SO-CALLED COSTUMED HERO IN NEW YORK--

BUT FOR THE SPIDER-MAN, I HAVE NOTHING BUT PRAISE AND ADULATION. YOU'RE WONDERING WHY THAT IS?

YES, SIR...

SOME MEN THRIVE ON INDEPENDENCE. OTHERS CRAVE THE APPROVAL OF OTHERS SO BADLY THEY MAKE INANE JOKES CONSTANTLY, EVEN TRYING TO EARN THE LAUGHTER OF THEIR SWORN ENEMIES.

I COULD ATTACK AND HUNT AND HOUND THE WALL-CRAWLER, BUT TO TRULY ***HURT*** HIM, IT IS MUCH BETTER TO ISOLATE HIM, CREATE A SCHISM BETWEEN HIM AND THOSE WHOSE ADMIRATION HE CRAVES.

AND ONCE I HAVE HIM, ALONE AND CORNERED, ONLY THEN CAN I--

--SQUASH HIM? ER-- SQUASH HIM LIKE THE BUG HE ***IS***, SIR?

SIGH I NEED BETTER SPEECHWRITERS.

BUT GIVE FISK CREDIT. AS FAR AS EVIL PLANS GO--

--GUY KNOWS WHAT HE'S DOING.

AW, C'MON, DD! DON'T BE LIKE THAT!

YOU AND ME-- WE'RE *PIZZA BROS!* REMEMBER THAT TIME WE GOT PIZZA?

ACTUALLY, YOU JUST SAT THERE AND SMELLED IT.

NOBODY RESPECTS WHAT SUPER HEROES DO TO KEEP THEIR ABS.

BUT, HEY, IT'S NOT LIKE I DON'T STILL HAVE ANY FRIENDS--

JUST, YOU KNOW, NOT THE ONES I WANT.

HE DOESN'T LIKE YOU.

NOT NOW, JOHNNY.

I DON'T LIKE YOU, EITHER.

DUDE! I MEANT IT. NOT NOW!

YOU SHOULD WATCH Y--

AGHHHH!

JOHNNY!

OKAY, PETE, TIME TO GET SERIOUS. THIS IS TURNING UGLY FAST--

--"YOUR PALS ARE GETTING THEIR FACES SWALLOWED" UGLY.

BUT IF THIS COUNTS AS A BAD DAY AT THE OFFICE--

--AT LEAST THINGS WERE SEEMING PRETTY SWELL AT MY OTHER JOB.

YEP, THAT'S ME--A PROUD CHARTER MEMBER OF THE LAMESTREAM MEDIA, COVERING BIG-TIME STORIES FOR THE *DAILY BUGLE!*

YES SIR, I'VE DEFINITELY COME A LONG WAY FROM SELLING FREELANCE PHOTOS OF MYSELF AS SPIDER-MAN TO J. JONAH JAMESON.

THESE DAYS I'VE CLIMBED MYSELF ALL THE WAY TO THE POSITION OF SCIENCE EDITOR!

THE JOB COMES WITH A REGULAR--IF NOT ENTIRELY SPECTACULAR--SALARY, BENEFITS, EVEN THIS SEXY MASSAGE CHAIR, BUT PERHAPS BEST OF ALL--

AHHH.

--THE RESPECT OF MY PEERS.

NICE JOB ON THE CROSS EXPOSE, PETE. CAN'T BELIEVE YOU GOT A QUOTE OUT OF STARK.

JUST GOOD OLD-FASHIONED JOURNALISM, KENNY. NOW LET'S SEE WHAT E.S.U. HAS LINED UP FOR US.

GOOD MORNING, ALL--

ESU

Brand New Day

HEY! I KNOW HER! THAT'S *CINDY LAWTON,* WE GRADUATED TOGETHER. I EVEN ASKED HER OUT ONCE!

THANK YOU FOR BEING HERE BRIGHT AND EARLY--FOR WHAT WE'RE CALLING A "BRAND NEW DAY" HERE AT EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY.

IT WASN'T LONG AGO THAT I WAS A STUDENT HERE--

SEE? I BET SHE *REMEMBERS* ME--

--BUT SINCE THEN, THE PROBLEM OF CAMPUS PLAGIARISM HAS WITHOUT A DOUBT EXPLODED, WITH CHEATING-RELATED EXPULSIONS UP FORTY PERCENT IN THE LAST THREE YEARS.

THE REALITY IS TODAY'S CAMPUSES ARE ILL-EQUIPPED TO DEAL WITH THE NEW SOURCES WOULD-BE PLAGIARISTS CAN CULL FROM.

LIKE ***AMANDA CLARKSDALE***, WHO USED A TRANSDIMENSIONAL DOORWAY TO FIND AN ALTERNATE-REALITY VERSION OF HERSELF THAT HAPPENED TO BE A GENIUS GRANT RECIPIENT--

--OR ***MICHAEL PRESCOTT***, WHO BRIBED A HIDDEN CELL OF SKRULL REFUGEES TO HELP HIM FALSIFY CONTROL RESULTS IN A PAPER THAT WAS PUBLISHED IN THREE SEPARATE ACADEMIC JOURNALS.

OR PERHAPS THE SADDEST STORY OF THEM ALL-- THE LATE ***RICKY LONDON***, WHO SOLD HIS SOUL TO THE DARK LORD ***MEPHISTO*** IN EXCHANGE FOR A PASSING LSAT SCORE.

WATCHR

WHICH IS WHY MY TEAM CREATED ***WATCHR***-- BLEEDING-EDGE ANTI-PLAGIARISM TECH THAT INCORPORATES CEREBRO TECH,

WITH THIS INNOVATION, WE BELIEVE UNIVERSITIES LIKE OURS WILL FINALLY HAVE THE TOOLS THEY NEED TO ENSURE COMPREHENSIVE AND RIGOROUS STANDARDS IN ACADEMIC REVIEW.

AND TO CELEBRATE THIS MOMENT, WE'D LIKE TO CALL ON ONE OF YOU--

--ONE OF OUR RECENT ALUMNI, THE FORMER HEAD OF PARKER INDUSTRIES AND THE CURRENT SCIENCE EDITOR FOR THE *DAILY BUGLE*-- MR. ***PETER PARKER!***

HEY, I'M NOT SURPRISED. I MEAN, I MAKE E.S.U. LOOK PRETTY GOOD RIGHT? THIS SHOULD BE FUN--

--HAPPY TO HELP THE OL' ALMA MATER HOWEVER I CAN.

I HAVE A PAPER PETER WROTE WHEN HE WAS A GRADUATE STUDENT HERE, AND WATCHR WILL REVIEW IT AND DETERMINE ITS SOURCING--

WOW, PRETTY COOL--I DID A LOT OF GREAT WORK WHEN I WAS ENROLLED HERE. THOUGH, I WONDER WHICH PAPER THEY'LL--

THE PAPER IS TITLED, "DETERMINING PATTERNS IN THE RANDOM: CHAOS THEORY AND PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTION." SCANNING NOW.

WAIT, NO--NO NO NO NO--OH GOD--NO--

FRAUDULENT.
ANALYSIS 100% CONFIRMED. REAL AUTHOR: DOCTOR OTTO OCTAVIUS.

FRAUDULENT

WHICH, I KNOW, LOOKS REALLY BAD! BUT I CAN *EXPLAIN*--

--OTTO OCTAVIUS WAS *ME!* HE TOOK OVER MY BODY FOR A WHILE AND BECAME THE *SUPERIOR SPIDER-MAN!*

AND WHILE HE WAS RUINING MY LIFE, HE NOTICED I'D NEVER FINISHED MY GRADUATE STUDIES AND DECIDED TO DO IT HIMSELF! OR *ME*-SELF--IT REALLY DEPENDS ON YOUR PERSPECTIVE--

--BUT ALL THAT MEANS I *CAN'T* EXPLAIN! NOT WITHOUT REVEALING THE TRUTH!

CINDY--EVERYONE-- THIS IS ALL A BIG MISUNDERSTANDING--

I HIGHLY DOUBT THAT, MISTER PARKER--

--I'M AFRAID YOUR GRADUATE DEGREE IS NOW OFFICIALLY UNDER REVIEW, WITH YOUR STANDING REVOKED PENDING INVESTIGATION.

PLEASE-- I KNOW THIS LOOKS BAD, BUT JUST--GIVE ME A CHANCE--

IT WOULD APPEAR YOU'VE ALREADY WASTED ALL THE CHANCES YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN, MISTER PARKER.

OH NO, NOT THE RESPECT OF MY PEERS!

THAT TURNED OUT TO BE PRETTY FLEETING. AT LEAST THERE ARE OTHER PEOPLE I CAN COUNT ON--

--FOLKS WHO WOULD *NEVER* TURN ON ME.

YOU'RE FIRED.

ROBBIE ROBERTSON. MY (*FORMER*?) BOSS AT THE *DAILY BUGLE*.

ROBBIE, WAIT--I PROMISE YOU, THIS IS ALL JUST A BIG MISTAKE--

I'M SURE IT IS, PETE. BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER--

LOOK AROUND. I'VE LAID OFF THREE GOOD REPORTERS THIS MONTH. I HAD TO CUT OUR RESEARCH BUDGET IN HALF.

FACT IS, CIRCULATION KEEPS DROPPING. NOBODY'S READING NEWSPAPERS ANYMORE--

NOW ONE OF OUR EDITORS IS FACING *PLAGIARISM ACCUSATIONS?*

EVEN IF IT DIDN'T DIRECTLY INVOLVE ONE OF OUR STORIES, IT COSTS US CREDIBILITY AT A TIME WHEN CREDIBILITY IS DAMN NEAR ALL WE HAVE.

GEEZ, ROBBIE--I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T EVEN THINK ABOUT THAT--

LOOK, PETE, I'M NOT ANGRY WITH YOU. HELL, I'D BE WILLING TO BET YOU DO HAVE A VERY GOOD EXPLANATION FOR ALL THIS, AND YOU JUST DON'T FEEL LIKE YOU CAN SHARE IT FOR REASONS THAT FRANKLY, I'D PROBABLY UNDERSTAND.

AND I HOPE ONE DAY WE CAN SIT DOWN OVER DINNER AND YOU CAN TELL ME THE TRUTH OF IT, AND WE CAN HAVE A LAUGH ABOUT THE WHOLE THING. BUT IN THE MEANTIME--

WE'RE GONNA NEED TO CLEAR OUT YOUR OFFICE.

NOT MY SEXY CHAIR...

IT'S THE *BUGLE'S* SEXY CHAIR NOW, SON.

OOF, THIS IS TOUGH. RIGHT NOW I COULD REALLY USE A SYMPATHETIC EAR. YOU KNOW--

--A SHOULDER TO CRY ON.

BWAHA HAHAHA!

MJ, C'MON--

I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY, IT'S JUST--*DUDE!* YOUR LIFE! SO MUCH RIDICULOUS.

"HI, I'M PETER PARKER. I DIDN'T PLAGIARIZE MY GRADUATE THESIS, IT WAS MY EVIL MAD SCIENTIST ARCH-NEMESIS IN A CLONE BODY OF ME--"

NO, NO, YOU GOT IT ALL WRONG. IT WASN'T A CLONE BODY, HE TRANSFERRED HIS ***CONSCIOUSNESS*** INTO MY BODY. I MEAN, ***NOW*** HE'S IN A CLONE BODY OF ME, BUT THAT'S A TOTALLY DIFFERENT THING--

--AND BESIDES, OTTO'S NOT MY ARCHNEMESIS. HE'S MY RUNNER-UP NEMESIS AT BEST.

OKAY, I APOLOGIZE FOR THE CONFUSION.

I JUST KEEP SEEING ROBBIE'S FACE. I WISH HE WOULD'VE YELLED AT ME. SEEING HIM LIKE THAT WAS WAY WORSE--

--I MEAN, IT'S ONE THING WHEN THIS STUFF RUINS ***MY*** LIFE, BUT WHENEVER IT AFFECTS SOMEBODY I CARE ABOUT--

YEAH, TIGER--

--I THINK I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

NICE ONE, PARKER.

VERY FEW PEOPLE HAVE PAID A BIGGER PRICE FOR YOUR LIFE AS SPIDER-MAN THAN MARY JANE WATSON--

ME AND HER WERE SO IN LOVE. THE KIND OF LOVE I REALLY THOUGHT MIGHT LAST FOR GOOD.

BUT ALL THE FEARS I HAD ABOUT PUTTING HER IN DANGER--AND ALL THE FEARS *SHE* HAD ABOUT HOW I WAS PUTTING *MYSELF* IN DANGER--EVENTUALLY TORE US APART.

WE'RE STILL BEST FRIENDS, BUT SOMETIMES--

--IT FEELS LIKE SOMETHING'S MISSING.

AND IN BUSINESS NEWS TONIGHT--THE FORMER HEAD OF PARKER INDUSTRIES AND CURRENT SCIENCE EDITOR OF THE DAILY BUGLE IS IN HOT WATER, FACING ACCUSATIONS OF PLAGIARISM--

--AND NOW HIS FORMER EMPLOYEES ARE GOING PUBLIC WITH ALLEGATIONS HE CLAIMED CREDIT FOR THEIR INVENTIONS.

THAT'S ACCORDING TO SAJANI JAFFREY, WHO WORKED WITH PARKER AT BOTH HIS OWN COMPANY AND HORIZON LABS.

REACHED FOR COMMENT, JAFFREY SAID, "HE'S A TOTAL FRAUD. I WAS THE BRAINS BEHIND THE ENTIRE OPERATION. SEE YOU IN COURT, PARKER." END QUOTE.

THIS JUST KEEPS GETTING WORSE...

I'M SO SORRY, PETER. HOW IN THE WORLD DID YOU EXPLAIN THIS TO AUNT MAY?

OH GOD--

AUNT MAY?! AUNT MAY, ARE YOU HOME?

IN HERE, PETER--

HEY, LADY, I WAS WONDERING IF YOU WANTED TO SEE A MOVIE WITH YOUR FAVORITE NEPHEW--

OH? DID YOU HAVE ONE IN MIND?

UH, I DUNNO--YOU LIKE THAT LIAM NEESON, RIGHT?

OH, I DO--LOVELY BROODING EYES ON THAT MAN.

YEAH, WELL, SOMEONE HE CARES ABOUT IS IN TROUBLE AGAIN.

THAT SOUNDS DELIGHTFUL--WHY DON'T YOU GRAB THE NEWSPAPER AND I'LL LOOK AT THE SHOWTIMES--

NEWSPAPER... NEWSPAPER...

UH...I DON'T THINK IT CAME TODAY!

DAILY BUGL

PETER PARKER: FRAUD

AH, THAT'S A SHAME. HOPE I DON'T MISS ANYTHING *TOO* IMPORTANT. BUT THEN AGAIN, I DOUBT IT--

--I HAVE A NEWS ALERT FOR YOU ON MY PHONE, AFTER ALL.

AUNT MAY...I CAN EXPLAIN--

I SET IT UP SO THAT EVERY TIME YOU PUBLISHED AN ARTICLE I'D SEE IT.

I READ THEM ALL, YOU KNOW. EVERY SINGLE ARTICLE IN THE SCIENCE SECTION. I KNOW MORE ABOUT ***POISONOUS SPORES*** OR HOW ***WHALES*** COMMUNICATE THAN I EVER THOUGHT I'D NEED TO.

I SHARE A LOT OF THEM WITH MY FRIENDS. I FORWARD THEM WITH A LITTLE NOTE ABOUT HOW ***PROUD*** I AM. MY NEPHEW, A NEWSPAPER EDITOR.

WORKED HIS WAY UP FROM FREELANCE PHOTOGRAPHY TO HIS OWN CORNER OFFICE.

JUST LIKE I WAS SO PROUD OF YOU WHEN YOU GOT THE JOB AT HORIZON LABS. THEN YOU STARTED YOUR ***OWN COMPANY,*** OF COURSE--

AND EVEN WHEN ***THAT*** FAILED, AND THE DAMAGE IT DID TO THE FOUNDATION IN YOUR UNCLE BEN'S NAME--

I WAS ***STILL*** SO PROUD OF YOU.

I WAS PROUD BECAUSE I COULD SEE YOU GROWING UP TO BE A GOOD MAN. AN HONEST MAN. SOMEONE WHO DID WHAT WAS RIGHT, NOT JUST WHAT WOULD MAKE THEM ***SUCCESSFUL.***

BUT ***THIS?***

YOU *LIED*, PETER. YOU CHEATED. YOU TOOK CREDIT FOR SOMEONE ELSE'S HARD WORK.

AUNT MAY-- IT--IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE--

NO?! SO THAT *WASN'T* OTTO OCTAVIUS' WORK? YOU WROTE THAT PAPER YOURSELF?

WELL-- NOT *EXACTLY*, BUT--

--IT'S COMPLICATED.

NO, IT ISN'T. BUT IT IS *SURPRISING*, PETER.

I CAN ACCEPT THAT YOU MADE A MISTAKE--EVEN A TRULY TERRIBLE ONE--

--BUT TO SEE YOU WON'T EVEN TAKE *RESPONSIBILITY* FOR IT?

I'D HOPED YOUR UNCLE AND I HAD RAISED YOU BETTER THAN THAT.

I'VE FACED DOWN GOBLINS, JUGGERNAUTS, AND BEYONDERS.

I'VE FOUGHT IN WARS ACROSS SPACE, BEEN CHASED THROUGH TIME, AND SEEN THE WORLD END MORE THAN ONCE.

BUT TRUST ME WHEN I SAY I WOULD VOLUNTEER TO GO THROUGH ALL OF THAT AGAIN TOMORROW, NO QUESTIONS ASKED--

--IF IT WERE A CHOICE BETWEEN THAT AND SEEING THAT LOOK OF DISAPPOINTMENT ON AUNT MAY'S FACE AGAIN.

HOW DOES THIS KEEP HAPPENING TO ME?

WHY IS IT THAT NO MATTER WHAT I DO, THE PEOPLE I LOVE ARE ALWAYS THE ONES WHO END UP PAYING FOR MY MISTAKES?

WHAT HAVE THEY EVER DONE BUT LOVE ME, TO HAVE TO CARRY THAT KIND OF BURDEN? AND EACH TIME I'M WITH THEM, I CAN SEE THE PAIN IT'S CAUSING THEM.

OOH, THAT *IS* NICE...

OKAY, MAYBE IT'S NOT ALL BAD FOR EVERYONE.

AND, OKAY, I CAN FEEL SORRY FOR MYSELF AND PLAY INNOCENT HERE. BUT THAT WOULDN'T BE THE WHOLE STORY.

THE TRUTH IS, AUNT MAY WAS MORE RIGHT THAN WRONG.

THIS *IS* MY FAULT.

SURE, MAYBE I DIDN'T OUTRIGHT STEAL OTTO'S WORK. BUT WHEN I FOUND OUT THAT HE'D EARNED THE DEGREE IN MY NAME, DID I SAY ANYTHING?

NO--I TOOK ONE LOOK AT IT ON THE WALL, AND JUST... WENT WITH IT. WENT WITH THE LIE.

I EVEN USED IT TO HELP FURTHER MY OWN CAREER.

MAYBE NO ONE WOULD'VE CARED IF THE HEAD OF PARKER INDUSTRIES WAS A GRAD SCHOOL DROPOUT, BUT I NEVER GAVE THEM THAT CHOICE, DID I?

SEE, THIS IS THE THING THAT ALWAYS GETS ME. DOING THE WRONG THING ISN'T MY PROBLEM--

--IT'S NOT DOING THE RIGHT THING.

AND BELIEVE ME, THOSE KINDS OF MISTAKES?

THEY CAN HAUNT YOU YOUR WHOLE LIFE.

BUT YOU KNOW WHAT THE WORST THING IS? THE PART THAT'S DRIVING ME ABSOLUTELY NUTS?!

OTTO'S FANCY PAPER? "DETERMINING PATTERNS IN THE RANDOM: CHAOS THEORY AND PROBABILITY DISTRIBUTION?" I TOTALLY KNOW THAT STUFF!

I EVEN WORKED OUT A BETTER THEORY BASED ON THE MOVEMENT PATTERNS OF HIS ARMS--BECAUSE GETTING HIT IN THE HEAD WITH THOSE THINGS IS NO--

WAIT, THAT'S IT!

THERE'S A PATTERN TO THESE PORTAL OPENINGS, IT'S NOT RANDOM AT ALL-- THEY'RE INTERCONNECTED!

AND IF I CAN FORMULATE WHICH ONE IS AT THE CENTER OF IT, I MIGHT BE ABLE TO SHUT IT DOWN--

--AND ALL OF THE OTHERS WITH IT!

OF COURSE, BETTER THAN DECENT ODDS THAT WOULD BE A ONE-WAY TRIP. TOO BAD I CAN'T FIND ANY HEAVY HITTERS SUBSUMED IN THE PILES AND PILES OF ALIENS. I MEAN, THOR EVEN *LIKES* SPACE!

AH, WELL--

GUESS I'LL HAVE TO DO.

SPIDER! WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?

SOMETHING THAT WILL *STOP* THESE GUYS! OR SOMETHING THAT WILL CAUSE ME TO DIE A HORRIBLE, PAINFUL DEATH. I DUNNO.

BUT IF THAT'S HOW IT GOES--

--BYE, FELICIA.

OH GOD, PLEASE DON'T LET THAT BE MY LAST JOKE.

ON THE OTHER HAND, IF THIS WERE IT FOR ME, I GUESS IT'S NOT THE WORST WAY TO GO, RIGHT?

SAVING THE WORLD AND ALL.

AND I DON'T MEAN FOR THE GLORY OF IT OR WHATEVER.

I MEAN IT MORE FOR THOSE PEOPLE, THE ONES WHO HAVE ALWAYS BEEN THERE FOR ME.

MAYBE IT WOULD SHOW THEM IN A WAY MY DUMB, TONGUE-TANGLED WORDS COULDN'T--

--HOW MUCH THEY HAD INSPIRED ME...

...HOW THEY HAD HELD ME UP EVERY TIME I WANTED TO FALL DOWN. HOW BECAUSE OF THEM--

--IT WAS ALL WORTH IT.

YEAH, I COULD LIVE WITH THAT BEING HOW MY HOW MY STORY ENDS.

BUT THEN AGAIN--

--WE DON'T GET TO CHOOSE THESE THINGS.

THESE FOOLS BELIEVE THEY ARE UNDER ATTACK FROM ANOTHER WORLD. LITTLE DO THEY KNOW--

--IT IS I, *MYSTERIO*, WHO HAS ENGINEERED THEIR GREATEST DEFEAT!

AND SOON THEY WILL ALL BOW BEFORE MY--

KNOCK KNOCK

AH, HELL.

I JUST WANTED TO TRY SOMETHING *DIFFERENT*, YOU KNOW? I FELT LIKE I WAS IN A RUT.

TRYING THE SAME THINGS OVER AND OVER. MAKING THE SAME MISTAKES OVER AND OVER.

SO I THOUGHT, WHY NOT TRY TO MURDER THEM ALL AT ONCE? GO FOR THE BRASS RING.

MAKE THAT ONE BIG GESTURE TO TURN MY WHOLE LOUSY LIFE AROUND. DOES THAT MAKE SENSE?

YOU KNOW WHAT? IT *DOES*--

--IT *REALLY DOES!* THANKS, BUBBLEHEAD!

PUT IN A WORD FOR ME AT MY HEARING!

CAN'T BELIEVE IT WAS ONE OF MY BAD GUYS. SERIOUSLY EMBARRASSING.

BUT ON THE PLUS SIDE, THANKS TO THIS DAY FULL OF PROFESSIONAL DISGRACE, PERSONAL STRUGGLE, AND BRUSHES WITH MORTALITY--

--I FINALLY KNOW WHAT I HAVE TO DO.

I ALMOST *DIED* TONIGHT. AND, YEAH, I GET IT. THAT HAPPENS A LOT. BUT THIS FELT--

--THIS FELT DIFFERENT.

WE TELL OURSELVES STORIES TO GET THROUGH THE HARD TIMES.

AND THE TRUTH IS, IF I'M BEING HONEST, *NOTHING* HAS FELT RIGHT. FOR A LONG TIME.

I THINK I KNOW *WHY.*

AND, YES, HOW WE TELL THEM MATTERS.

WE'VE BEEN THROUGH SO MUCH TOGETHER. SURVIVED SO MUCH TOGETHER.

AND I KNOW THAT ON *MY* END AT LEAST, IF YOU HADN'T BEEN THERE-- I WOULDN'T HAVE SURVIVED IT.

BUT THE TRUTH IS, THERE'S ONLY SO FAR THEY'LL TAKE YOU.

BECAUSE, YEAH, I CAN DO A *LOT* OF THINGS. SWING FROM BUILDINGS, CLIMB WALLS. ALL THAT STUFF. BUT TO DO *THIS?* AND DO IT RIGHT?

I NEED *YOU.*

I WISH I HAD ALL THE ANSWERS. I WISH I KNEW HOW TO MAKE EVERYTHING BETTER AND SAFER AND EASIER AND SIMPLER--BUT I JUST-- I JUST *CAN'T* ANYMORE--

YOU CAN PLAY THE DREAM IN YOUR HEAD OVER AND OVER, BUT IF YOU WANT THINGS TO CHANGE--

--IF YOU WANT THAT STORY TO BE YOUR LIFE, YOU HAVE TO WAKE UP.

MAYBE THIS IS A MISTAKE. I'M SORRY. THIS ISN'T FAIR TO YOU. MAYBE I SHOULD--

WHOA, WHOA. EASY, TIGER--

YOU HAVE TO MAKE IT REAL.

THIS IS MY STORY--

--OUR STORY.

WE'RE IN THIS *TOGETHER*, PETE.

WE ALWAYS HAVE BEEN.

Years ago as a high school student, PETER PARKER was bitten by a radioactive spider and gained the proportional speed, strength and agility of a SPIDER, adhesive fingertips and toes, and the unique precognitive awareness of danger called "SPIDER-SENSE"! After the tragic death of his Uncle Ben, Peter understood that with great power there must also come great responsibility. He became the crimefighting super hero called...

The Amazing SPIDER-MAN

BACK TO BASICS Part One

NICK SPENCER | writer
RYAN OTTLEY | penciler
CLIFF RATHBURN | inker
LAURA MARTIN | colorist
VC'S JOE CARAMAGNA | letterer

RYAN OTTLEY *and* LAURA MARTIN | cover artists

MATT FRACTION *and* SALVADOR LAROCCA | special thanks

SHANE DAVIS, MICHELLE DELECKI *and* MORRY HOLLOWELL
JOHN ROMITA SR., TERRY AUSTIN *and* JASON KEITH
ERIK LARSEN *and* DEAN WHITE [REMASTERED]
JIM CHEUNG *and* JUSTIN PONSER, GREG LAND *and* JASON KEITH [PARTY]
variant cover artists

ANTHONY GAMBINO | designer
KATHLEEN WISNESKI | assistant editor
NICK LOWE | editor

C.B. CEBULSKI | editor in chief
JOE QUESADA | chief creative officer
DAN BUCKLEY | president
ALAN FINE | executive producer

SPIDER-MAN
created by
STAN LEE
&
STEVE DITKO

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It's really hard to surprise people these days, so I hope we got you there. But which surprise? Mysterio? MJ?!?! This is a taste of what we've got in store for you twice a month in this new volume of AMAZING SPIDER-MAN! Let's meet the team...

Nick Spencer is no stranger to surprises, twists and turns, as I think the whole world knows from a certain two-word phrase uttered from the mouth of Steve Rogers. Nick held the writing reins in one of the best Marvel events ever, SECRET EMPIRE, which he set up with runs on both the Sam Wilson and Steve Rogers CAPTAIN AMERICA titles. Add to that his ASTONISHING ANT-MAN and the cult-favorite SUPERIOR FOES OF SPIDER-MAN that put him on Spidey-Fans' maps. And if you haven't checked out some of his creator-owned projects such as *Morning Glories* or *The Fix*, you should correct that ASAP.

Ryan Ottley has been eluding this persistent editor for years as he's put up one of the best and longest super hero comics runs over the last fifteen years on the Image comic *Invincible*. But it was Nick Spencer's idea to tap Ryan at the end of his *Invincible* run to launch this amazing new run. Luckily, Ryan was on board and, as you've seen over the last 32 pages, Ryan is quickly showing Marvel fans that he belongs in the illustrious company of the best Spider-Man artists of all time.

Cliff Rathburn was one of Ryan Ottley's partners in crime on *Invincible* and has already proven himself an editor's dream on this book. He's impressed me with his line-weight variance and general awesomeness.

I've been a fan of Laura Martin's since first seeing her work on *The Authority* almost twenty years ago in 1999. Since then, with her work on ASTONISHING X-MEN, NEW AVENGERS, THOR, WOLVERINE AND THE X-MEN, BLACK PANTHER... We'll run out of space if we keep listing her incredible work. She's a coloring legend and we're so lucky to have her on AMAZING SPIDER-MAN.

Rounding out the team is a gentleman and a scholar, letterer Joe Caramagna. Not only has Joe saved every Marvel editor's bacon as he lettered half of Marvel's books of the last ten years, but he's also a writer on *DuckTales* and his Wyatt Earp comic that you have to check out. But it doesn't stop there as he's a family man and a very active supporter and advocate of the Ronald McDonald House. Stop making the rest of us look bad, Joe.

So, that's our team and they've got so much in store for you lucky, lucky readers. It's really hard to keep secrets from readers in this day and age. Not only do we solicit each issue and cover more than a month in advance, but we also live in an age when people are trying to reveal story points early. We're going to do our best to save secrets for you to read, but do yourself a favor: put ASM on your pull list at your favorite local comic shop and stay away from spoilers. We've all got so much cooking for you. But that's it for ASM #1. No more surprises. Yup. It's not like you're going to find more story when you turn this page. Nope. It's not like Nick is about to be joined by Spider-Man legend Humberto Ramos (and his comrades Victor Olazaba and Edgar Delgado) for still more story in this first issue... That would be crazy. So, I'll see you in two weeks for the next climactic issue that's going to blow your mind!

Keep on swinging,

Nick Lowe
Editor

IT BEGAN AT A YOUNG AGE-- MY LOVE OF FILM. OF STORIES.

THAT AFTERNOON, AS A YOUNG QUENTIN BECK WATCHED A MERMAID AND TOM HANKS FIND TRUE LOVE, I REALIZED MY CALLING.

I REALIZED I HAD A *DESTINY!*

AND SO I WROTE--*DID I WRITE!* I WAS CRAFTING A TALE FOR THE *AGES*. AN EPIC SO GRAND IT WOULD IMMORTALIZE ME.

IN THE MEANTIME, I TOILED. I WORKED ON SET AFTER SET, HOWEVER I WAS NEEDED-- SPECIAL EFFECTS, STUNTS, COSTUMING...

ALL IN SEARCH OF MY CHANCE--MY OPPORTUNITY TO GET MY PRECIOUS SCRIPT IN FRONT OF THE RIGHT PERSON. BUT WHEN THAT TIME CAME--

--THEY REJECTED ME! *COWARDS!*

WELL, I'D SHOW THEM. I'D SHOW THEM ALL!

DAILY BUGLE

SPIDER-MAN

IF THEY WOULDN'T LET ME TELL MY STORIES ON THE SCREEN, I'D BRING THEM TO LIFE ELSEWHERE--

I'D MAKE ALL THE WORLD MY TERRIFYING STAGE! AS A MASTER OF ILLUSION I'D BRING THE PUBLIC A SERIES OF DRAMATIC, HARROWING LIVE EXPERIENCES THEY *WOULDN'T* LIVE TO REGRET.

LIKE THIS ALIEN INVASION PERFORMANCE--WHICH BY THE WAY, WAS ENTIRELY DONE WITH PRACTICAL EFFECTS AND A UNION CREW-- WHO EVEN *DOES* THAT ANYMORE? QUITE PROUD...

OF COURSE THESE STORIES NEED HEROES, RIGHT? AND ONE IN PARTICULAR--THAT ACCURSED *SPIDER-MAN*--WOULD VEX ME TIME AND AGAIN.

BUT SOON MY MOMENT WILL ARRIVE--WHEN I WRITE HIS TRAGIC *END*. THEN EVERYONE WILL KNOW AND FEAR ME AS I TAKE MY PLACE AMONG THE GREAT VILLAINS OF OUR TIME...

I--
MYSTERIO!

BANG
BANG
BANG

MR. BECK!
ENOUGH--

I UNDERSTAND YOU'VE ELECTED TO REPRESENT YOURSELF DESPITE THE COURT'S *STRENUOUS* ADVICE TO THE CONTRARY--

THAT'S RIGHT. MYSTERIO DOES NOT TAKE *NOTES!*

≠SIGH≠ FINE. BUT I'M TELLING YOU IT'S NOT TIME FOR YOUR OPENING STATEMENT--

MONOLOGUE.

SURE, WHATEVER. MY POINT IS, WE JUST NEED YOU TO ENTER YOUR PLEA.

AH, I SEE, YOUR HONOR. WELL, THEN-- OBVIOUSLY I PLEAD NOT--

SANE, YOUR HONOR--

MY CLIENT PLEADS NOT GUILTY BY REASON OF *INSANITY.*

THIS WOMAN! I *KNOW* HER-- SHE'S NO MERE *ATTORNEY--*

--SHE IS THE INSUFFERABLE *BEETLE!* DAUGHTER OF THE MOBSTER *TOMBSTONE,* AND FORMER MEMBER OF THOSE *SINISTER SIX IMPOSTERS!*

JANICE LINCOLN FOR THE *DEFENSE,* YOUR HONOR. HAVE A SEAT, QUENTIN. THE BAD MEN CAN'T HURT YOU ANYMORE.

HAVE A-- I MOST CERTAINLY WILL NOT! JUDGE, THIS WOMAN DOES NOT SPEAK FOR ME! MYSTERIO IS A ONE-MAN SHOW!

ACTUALLY, I DO, BECK. YOU'VE GOT SOME SCARY-RICH FRIENDS-- AND SEEING AS YOU BLEW THE LAST OF YOUR RESIDUALS ON A BUBBLE SPACESHIP THAT CAN'T ACTUALLY GO INTO SPACE--

...IT CAN'T?

HARD TO BELIEVE M.O.D.O.K. SCREWED YOU LIKE THAT. SO HOW ABOUT YOU SIT DOWN?

I WILL NOT! WHY, I SHOULD BE THE ONE TAKING *YOU* TO COURT! SIX VILLAINS, ONE TEAM--THAT WAS MY IDEA! YOU STOLE MY INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY!

ARE YOU SERIOUS, DUDE? I WASN'T EVEN-- *GFF--SORRY--*

KAFF KAFF

MS. LINCOLN? YOU ALL RIGHT?

I'M SORRY, YOUR HONOR-- IT'S JUST A LITTLE--

HRRKK!

OH GOD--WHAT-- WHAT'D YOU DO?

IT--IT WASN'T ME.

BUT I KNOW WHO IT WAS.

EMERGENCY RECESS! BAILIFFS, GET A PARAMEDIC-- SOMETHING IS--

SOMETHING WRONG-- WITH--

AND I KNOW HOW HORRIBLE THIS IS ABOUT TO BECOME.

AHHHH!

RUN.

YOU NEED TO RUN, YOU IDIOT.

EXIT STAGE LEFT!

AGGHH!

WHERE THE #$%& IS THIS STUFF COMING FROM?

I DUNNO-- BUT WE GOTTA GET THE JURY OUT OF HERE BEFORE--

OHGODOHGOD

GOTTAGETOUTOFHERE GOTTAGETOUTOFHERE

PLEASE...

SIGH

QUENTIN, QUENTIN, QUENTIN...

GOTTA ADMIT, I'M REALLY DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, MAN.

I MEAN, TRYING TO RUN? YOU'RE SMARTER THAN THAT. I'VE READ YOUR SCREENPLAY, REMEMBER? REAL POTENTIAL.

YOU OF ALL PEOPLE KNOW, IT'S ALREADY TOO LATE--

--YOU'RE BEING CHASED BY THE THING THAT CATCHES US ALL.

OH NO-- PLEASE--NOT NOW--

NOT NOW? IF NOT NOW, WHEN? YOU'VE WASTED SO MUCH TIME--DID YOU REALLY THINK I'D WAIT FOREVER?

I DIDN'T-- I DIDN'T MEAN TO--

YOU *NEVER* MEAN TO. YOU ALWAYS HAVE SUCH GRAND PLANS, AFTER ALL. EVER THE SHOWMAN. AND YET...

I'VE BEEN WEARING HIM DOWN, SLOWLY. I KNOW HIS SECRETS--

HIS *SECRETS?* HIS SECRETS ARE OF *NO USE* TO ME--

I KNOW PETE BETTER THAN HE KNOWS HIMSELF.

WHAT I WANT IS SOME GROUNDWORK ESTABLISHED. AND NO ONE KNOWS HOW TO SET THE STAGE QUITE LIKE YOU.

AND I WILL-- I CAN! THAT'S WHAT THIS WAS-- THE INVASION. IT WAS A RUSE--A *TRAP!* I SET A TRAP FOR ALL OF THEM--

YOU THINK I DON'T KNOW THAT? WHY ELSE WOULD I GO TO THE TROUBLE OF FINDING YOU THIS LOVELY ATTORNEY?

Y-YOU DID THAT?

HM. BUT YOUR PRIDE WOULDN'T EVEN ALLOW YOU TO ACCEPT MY HELP. YOU YELLED AT HER.

NOW LOOK AT HOW SAD SHE IS, QUENTIN.

PLEASE-- I DIDN'T KNOW. GIVE ME ANOTHER CHANCE--

ANOTHER? YOU WERE GIVEN SOMETHING MEN SPEND ETERNITIES IN THE FIRE CRYING OUT FOR. LET'S NOT BE GREEDY.

NOW WHAT WAS THAT SONG YOU USED TO SING TO YOURSELF WHILE THE DEMONS TORTURED YOU?

OH GOD... OH GOD...

PLEASE! ONE LAST CHANCE! THAT'S ALL I NEED! *PLEASE! I'M BEGGING* YOU! I WON'T LET YOU DOWN!

SIGH

YOU HAD BETTER NOT.

REMEMBER, I WALKED YOU OUT OF HELL ONCE, QUENTIN--

--IT WON'T BE HARD FOR ME TO DRAG YOU BACK DOWN THERE WITH ME.

NO--NO-- PLEASE--

NOOOOOO--!

ORDER! ORDER! I AM WARNING YOU, MISTER BECK--ONE MORE OUTBURST LIKE THAT AND YOU'LL BE IN CONTEMPT--

I APOLOGIZE, YOUR HONOR-- AS YOU CAN SEE, MY CLIENT'S FACULTIES ARE NOT SOUND--

SHE-- SHE'S RIGHT, YOUR HONOR. I--I NEED HELP. I'D LIKE TO CHANGE MY PLEA...

THAT WAS #$%& FANTASTIC, MYSTY. BEST ACTING I'VE EVER SEEN YOU DO. KEEP IT UP.

AND I WILL. IT APPEARS I HAVE NO CHOICE.

OR MAYBE IT'S NOT ACTING AT ALL...

PERHAPS I *AM* LOSING MY MIND...

EMPIRE STATE UNIVERSITY.

THANK YOU FOR MEETING WITH ME ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, PETER.

NO PROBLEM, CINDY. GUESSING THIS IS ABOUT--

OUR REVIEW BOARD'S INVESTIGATION? ALREADY COMPLETED. WE'VE RECOMMENDED THE FULL REVOCATION OF YOUR ACADEMIC CREDENTIALS.

HEY, DID YOU KNOW THAT THERE WAS A PROFESSOR HERE WHO ALREADY ACCUSED ME OF PLAGIARIZING OTTO? HE CLEARED ME--

AND IS NOW ***DECEASED.*** YES, I'VE LOOKED INTO IT. BUT IN THIS CASE, THE EVIDENCE WAS ***QUITE*** OVERWHELMING.

YEAH, NO, I GET THAT. I, UM...I TAKE FULL RESPONSIBILITY. I GUESS YOU NEED ME TO SIGN SOME STUFF ADMITTING I'M AN IDIOT?

MM, NOT EXACTLY. HERE, TAKE THIS.

AND THESE.

WHAT-- WHAT IS THIS?

TEXTBOOKS AND A SYLLABUS.

OKAY, NOW I ***FEEL*** LIKE AN IDIOT. I DON'T GET WHAT'S HAPPENING--

AS I SAID, OUR REVIEW BOARD WAS CLEAR IN ITS RECOMMENDATIONS. UNTIL WE HEARD AN IMPASSIONED DEFENSE OF YOU FROM AN ESTEEMED MEMBER OF OUR FACULTY.

HE WAS DOWNRIGHT ***INSISTENT*** YOU BE GIVEN ANOTHER CHANCE--

--AND HE CAN BE A ***VERY*** DIFFICULT MAN TO SAY NO TO.

AH, THERE HE IS, CLASS.

PETER PARKER--

--HAVE A SSSSEAT.

TO BE CONTINUED!

NEXT:

Issue #2

Let us know how we're doing! Drop us a line at SPIDEYOFFICE@MARVEL.COM!
Be sure to mark it "Okay to print"!

ZONE